



## Longcot and Fernham Church of England Primary School

### Our Value this Term: Compassion

'Do not neglect to **do good** and to **share what you have**, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God' Hebrews 13.16

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

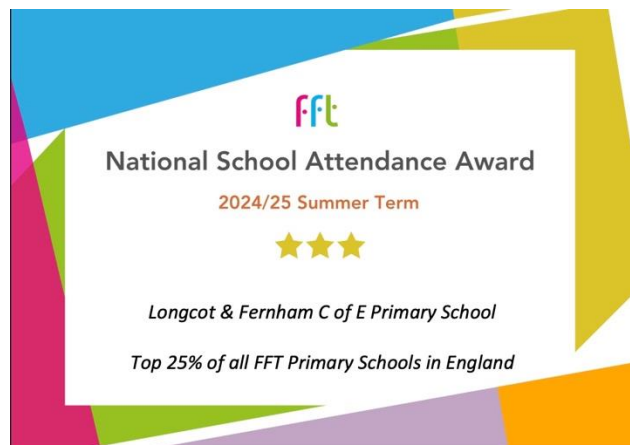
We hope that you had a wonderful half term break, even if it now feels a distant memory! We want to extend our huge congratulations to two of our very own staff who had their weddings during half term. Miss Williams is now Mrs Selway and Mr Mitchell (still Mr Mitchell!) also got married in half term week. We wish them both every happiness in their married lives.



We are well and truly underway with term 2 and, as we fly through all the other events and festivals of the Autumn, we are already looking to Christmas, with only a matter of weeks until the first Christmas events take place! Wrens Nativity is on 4<sup>th</sup> December and our PTA Christmas Fair is on 5<sup>th</sup> December, along with other events to follow so please do keep an eye on the dates section at the end of this letter for forthcoming dates this term!

### Attendance

With huge thanks to all our parents for your hard work on ensuring children have the best attendance they can, we are proud to have been awarded a certificate for our whole school attendance in the Summer term of last academic year which recognises our school as being in the top 25% of schools whose attendance is measured by the Fisher Family Trust. We absolutely understand that getting our children to school regularly and on time can be a very real struggle on every one of you (parents and children).



Longcot, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7SY

Tel: 01793 782381

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Robins

Chair of Governors: Sue Hunter

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## Children in Need



Congratulations to the School Council for all their efforts in preparing for Children in Need Day. They are sharing their Assembly with the whole school during the day and special thanks to Daniel and Bluebella for extra research and preparation at home. Thank you all for your support with fundraising. Our Just Giving link for Children in Need is copied here for donations:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/sally-robins-2?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/sally-robins-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

## Could your child be eligible for the Pupil Premium?

If your family is in receipt of any of the following, your child may be eligible for some additional funding at school to support us in developing provision.

- **Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)**
- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)**
- **Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**

If you think that your child may be eligible and have not yet spoken to us about this, please do let us know, as this funding can contribute to additional opportunities and activities for children in school.

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## Author of the term



Each term, alongside class reading, we celebrate an author about whom we think children should know. This term, our focus is the brilliant **Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara**, who is author of the **Little People, Big Dreams Series** of books. She was born in Barcelona and worked hard for 15 years to reach the point where she could self-publish her first book. Her work has now become internationally acclaimed and

published in multiple languages.

The Little People, Big Dreams series has sold millions of copies. It is a biography series for kids which explores the lives of outstanding people, from artists, designers, authors, activists, and scientists.

Each one of them achieved incredible things, but each one of them still started life as a kid with a dream. Each book is told in different formats. The board books are told in simple sentences, perfect for reading aloud to toddlers and babies. Whereas the hardcover and paperback versions present an expanded story for beginning readers. I am sure that there will be at least one of her books to appeal to every child in our school! Even this year Maria has added new titles such as Mary Earps and Harry Styles!

## An opportunity for Dads!

Through one of our own parent community, we have been made aware of a fantastic opportunity for fathers to contribute to a lead by Bloomsbury Publishing. *Letters to Our Sons* is a project which Bloomsbury Publishing is leading in collaboration with Stephen Graham (*Adolescence*) and Orly Klein (psychology lecturer). Stephen announced the project on his social channels on 15th October - you can see the post here:



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DP0vaSIDfYt/?igsh=YWdmMWVqc2prdzlz> - and he also spoke about it on the [One Show](#) on 16th October.

*Letters to Our Sons* invites fathers to write letters to their sons reflecting on what it means to be a man. These letters will form part of a landmark book, to be published by Bloomsbury in October next year. This is a wonderful opportunity and I am sure some of our Dads would love to contribute.

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## Jigsaw PSHE



Many of you will know that Jigsaw is a significant part of our curriculum for PSHE and contributes to children's development and understanding of self and relationships with others. It has a strong focus on being mindful and sessions always start with our Jigsaw chime and some calming breathing and time for mindfulness. This term, our 'puzzle piece' is called '**Celebrating Difference**' which fits perfectly with Odd Socks Day and Anti Bullying Week, alongside our No Outsiders work. All of these are

intended to help ensure that everyone in our community knows that they are unique, special, and that they belong. You can see an overview of the content for this term and future terms on the PSHE page of our website (under Curriculum). Here is a link:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/longcot-and-fernham-church-of-england-primary-school/UploadedDocument/bf310e5c-6129-4885-a03e-6b56d1e8ddc7/jigsaw-snapshot-overview-map.pdf>

## Attendance

Thank you to all our families for supporting us to continue to have good school attendance. Please remember that we are unable to authorise absence in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Birthdays and holidays do not constitute exceptional circumstances. You can find much more information about attendance and absence in the letter which was sent out earlier this week.

<b>Current attendance:</b> 96.45%	<b>Attendance target:</b> 96%
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Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to the next few weeks of term!

*Mrs Robins and the Longcot team*

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## Dates for the diary

Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Blackbirds & Robins Viking Workshops
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	PTA Film Night (3-5pm)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Nightingales Egyptians Workshops
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Wrens Class Nativity Play 1.30pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Sparrows & Nightingales class Nativity 9.15am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Sparrows & Nightingales class Nativity 1.30pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Wreath Making Activity sessions
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Wrens Christmas Craft Parent session 1.15pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady Christmas Concert
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Robin & Blackbird Class Parent Craft session 1.45pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Sparrow Class Christmas Crafts parent session 1.45pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service @ Shrivenham 6pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Nightingales Parent Spanish session 2.15pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term 2 <b>1.15pm</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Term 3
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	PTA Film Night
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Valentine Disco
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	End of Term 3 (3.00pm)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Term 4 begins

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.  
Our School Designated Safeguarding Leads are  
Mrs Sally Robins – DSL**

**Mrs Kent and Mrs McCluskey-Hornbuckle - Deputy DSLs**

What to do if you think a child is at risk of abuse or neglect:

**Immediate danger-** call the police on 999

**Immediate concern-** If you have a concern about a child, please call  
MASH on 0345 050 7666

A special helpline is available if you are concerned that a child you  
know is being **sexually exploited**. Contact the Kingfisher Team on  
01865 309196

[What to do if you think a child is at risk of abuse or neglect -  
Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board \(oscb.org.uk\)](#)

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